

10/563261

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AP15 Rec'd PCT/PTO 04 JAN 2006

I hereby certify that the foregoing Information Disclosure Statement and the accompanying Form PTO/SB/08a/b (2 sheets), a copy of the International Search Report, a copy of the Written Opinion, and copies of fifteen (15) references are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail under Label No. EV 690628433 US in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop PCT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

Date:

1/4/06

By:

Kimberly Brittingham

Attorney Docket No.: 102792-511 (11284P6 US)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| APPLICANT | : | Fabio CORRADINI et al. |
| SERIAL NO. | : | To Be Assigned |
| CUSTOMER NO. | : | 27389 |
| FILED | : | January 4, 2006 |
| FOR | : | WATER SOFTENING METHOD |
| ART UNIT | : | To Be Assigned |
| EXAMINER | : | To Be Assigned |

January 4, 2006

Mail Stop PCT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

SIR:

Pursuant to 37 CFR §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant(s) respectfully request that the Examiner consider the references listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08a/b.

I. Timeliness, Fees and Certifications in lieu of Fees

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the application, or within three months of entry into the national stage, or before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits. Pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.97(b), consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement does not require a fee or a statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e). However, should the Commissioner determine that a fee is, in fact, due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

II. Copies of Listed References

Copies of all references listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08a/b are being supplied.

Copies of U.S. patents are not included pursuant to Pre-OG Notice dated July 11, 2003.

III. Concise Statement of Relevance

This application is a PCT national stage application, and all references listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08a/b were cited in the specification, or in the International Search Report, and a copy of that search report, which indicates the degree of relevance found by the International Search Authority, is attached.

Consideration of the foregoing in relation to this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

NORRIS McLAUGHLIN & MARCUS, P.A.

By Andrew N. Parfomak

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|--|------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Substitute for form PTO-1449 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT | | Application Number | To Be Assigned 10/563261 |
| | | Filing Date: | January 4, 2006 |
| | | First Named Inventor | Fabio CORRADINI |
| | | Art Unit | To Be Assigned |
| | | Examiner Name: | To Be Assigned |
| Sheet 1 | of 2 | Attorney Docket Number: | 102792-511 (11284P6 US) |

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner's Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Document Number | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
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NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

| Examiner's Initials* | Cite No. | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. | T ⁶ |
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EXAMINER SIGNATURE:
DATE CONSIDERED:

***EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²see Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴for Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

The collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.197 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing this form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.

*1 English language abstract only

*2 Replaces EP 551375 A